HK3DDD

The DX Bulletin

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SPECIAL FAREWELL ISSUE!

It was the lark, the herald of the morn,
No nightingale: look, love, what envious streaks
Do lace the severing clouds in yonder east:
Night's candles are burnt out, and jocund day
Stands tiptoe on the misty mountain tops:
I must be gone and live, or stay and die.

Romeo and Juliet
Act III, Scene V

YES, IT'S GOODBYE to 1983, a spectacular DX year. For example, a local Honor Roller we know broke a three-year new countries drought with BY8AA in '83, and may work even another one this year if VU7WCY cooperates.

Your editor worked four new ones in '83, and the Laccadives will make five. 1983 will be remembered not as the year the bottom dropped out of the sunspot cycle, but rather as the twelve-month period which produced activity from four of the TDXB Top Twenty of needed countries.

1983 began with many breathless from a flurry of late-1982 happenings: BY8AA had come on Nov 4, 1982, with a stronger signal than BY1PK, raising the hopes of many of working China. The 10 MHz band had been opened to U.S. amateurs in October, and it was well into 1983 before many people began burning out on that awardless band. NCDXF fired up their worldwide 14.100 MHz beacon system in late 1982, mostly to a chorus of yawns, as 21 and 28 MHz were still hot (that is rapidly changing as 20 M becomes the band of choice). Polish amateurs finally got back on the bands in December, 1982, with official permission for most of them early in '83. And finally, 1983 was announced to be "World Communications Year." By the time it was over, World Confusion Year would have been more appropriate!

1982's worst news was that FCC was considering a 'No-code" amateur license in the U.S., and that topic occupied many editorial pages throughout '83. The non-DX amateur community was all a'flutter after an admittedly poorly conducted operation from Peter and Paul Rocks (PYØP) occupied much of the 20 Meter Phone band. This even prompted QST to run a front-page editorial on the subject.

Of the TDXB Top Twenty, only three countries had been active in 1982...China, P/P Rocks, and Crozet. However, all but about forty of the 315 DXCC countries had been on in 1982, making it at least an average year for DXing. December 1982 ended with the solar flux hovering around 170. Few would have thought that just a year later that flux would be struggling to pass the hundred mark! Nevertheless, our optimism for 1983 was to be justified.

There were many good signs. SMØAGD's October operation from the Pacific (mainly Canton Island) reminded many of how pleasant chasing DX can be with a competent operator at the other end. Crozet's FB8WG had given many ulcers in 1982 with plenty of people still needing him after an entire year of "activity." Then came FB8WH and WI at the end of 1982, followed in 1983 by FB8WJ and WK, good operators all. Coincidentally, early 1983 also saw activity from FB8XAB and FB8ZQ.

By January, 1983, W1JR had worked all fifty states on the new 10 MHz band, and a few operators were closing in on DXCC there. Lloyd and Iris Colvin were on from Oman, then Qatar. Rumors were also floating of Tahitian interest in a Clipperton expedition, and a number of Argentinians were gearing up for operations from all the South Atlantic islands except S. Sandwich.

Since mid-1982, Heard Island had been the DX World's biggest topic of conversation, with two groups aiming for VKØ. Jim Smith, VK9NS, had formed a "Heard Island DX Association" and was raising funds and making plans for a January operation. Simultaneously, the International DX Foundation, in conjunction with an Australian group calling itself the "VK6 DX Chasers" was also readying their team.

These two expedition teams, running on parallel tracks for months, left many wondering how such a situation could have come to pass. Only after the operations had been completed and the recriminations begun did it become apparent that there were simply too many personalities involved for the groups to have ever come to an understanding. Pride has its price.

On Friday, Jan 21, 1983, IDXF's Anaconda dropped anchor on Heard Island after a twenty-day trip. Al Fischer, K8CW, and Dave Shaw, VK3DHF, quickly set up shop, coming on the air with a vertical antenna. Almost two weeks later, the HIDXA landed, composed of VK9NS, VK9NL, VKØSJ, WA8MOA, OE1LO, and several non-amateurs. What followed was reported extensively in TDXB Issue 195 (among others). By the time both groups were readying for departure, they were CQing with almost no takers. Over 50,000 contacts were produced by the two groups, under four callsigns. The IDXF has not been heard from since, while the HIDXA continued into 1983 planning for a 1984 Kermadec expedition. Slide presentations by both K8CW and VK9NS have played to packed houses ever since the 1983 Heard Island operations.

Another expedition which has had wide coverage at conventions was the Chad operation in late January, 1983, by Carl Henson WB4ZNH/TT8AC and Martha Henson WN4FVU/TT8BC. Chad, number 18 in the 1982 TDXB Survey, didn't seem like the most hospitable country

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from which to operate; Carl and Martha went there with gear but no licenses, hoping to find the right people once there. Their success was our good fortune, with Chad dropping to #34 in the Survey which followed.

Solar flux was heading down...it turned out that the 1982/early 83 season was the last one in which we would have propagation on 10 Meters between Japan and the Eastern U.S. The famous DK2OC Net moved down from 10 to 15 Meters early in 1983, and the evening W7PHO gathering on 15 Meters closed up shop for another sunspot cycle. In February, the solar flux dropped below 150 for the first time in nearly five years.

LU3ZI and LU5ZA ended S. Shetlands and S. Orkney operations in February, having run up giant contact totals on both CW and SSB. KC7UU showed up in Nigeria and said he'd be on the air several years, with hopes of licensing in several neighboring, rare countries. Tom Gregory, N4NW, also began a tour of duty in Africa, stationed first in Ghana and later in the Ivory Coast. Rumors of an autumn Malpelo operation by the Colombian Radio Club also surfaced. The Colvins ended their Middle East operations from Jordan and returned to the States to appear at the Visalia International DX Convention, then at the Dayton Hamvention.

In early March, a German group signed PYØSA from the P/P Rocks, and cleaned up most of the demand for that spot. JA8MWU and JH8NYK were in Bangladesh but unable to operate as they had hoped. They settled for the Maldives instead. A letter from Germany advised of an upcoming expedition to a "very rare" DXCC spot. The attempt later, in April, was to have tragic consequences.

TDXB issue 180, March 1, 1983, featured an investigation of the "National Radio Quiet Zone." It was one of those articles of which we are particularly proud, despite not much feedback. The article, like our reporting of communications during the late 1983 U.S. invasion of Grenada, will just have to wait to be either proven of disproved.

Also in Issue 180 was the announcement of the "very rare" spot...Spratly, with operators to be DJ6SI, DJ3NG, DJ4EI, and DF6FK. They were aiming for about March 22, and TDXB reminded readers in that issue that we had published a long report on the dangers of the entire South China Sea back in 1979. Unfortunately, information available in early 1983 supported our concern.

In early March San Hutson, K5YY, made what was to be his last expedition for a while, operating mainly low bands from several Asian countries, including Singapore and Brunei. Later in the year, K5YY became the newest member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame.

Diplomat Jim Bullington, N4HX, wound up Dahomey operations (as TYA11) and moved on to Burundi, where he became U.S. Ambassador to that country. After a several month wait he was granted 9U5JB.

BY1PK was off the air in the spring as they moved the station to a new building, but BY8AA continued to make a dozen or so contacts a week on 20 and 15 Meter CW. Several Americans visited BY1PK in the spring but no operating permission was granted. Later in the year, K1MM operated BY1PK twice, but BY8AA was still for Chinese operators only.

The two stations which had been operating from Burma's Karen state changed their callsigns, from XZ5A to 1Z5A, and from XZ9A to 1Z9A. An election had been held for regional president and it was hoped that this, plus the distinctive callsigns, might open up possibilities for DXCC acceptance, but this did not happen.

In Indonesia, amateurs were off the air Feb 26 to Mar 13, as the government didn't want any radio activity during meetings of their national assembly. Thai amateurs also left the air about this time, and did not return in 1983, although visitor K4TKM did get permission to put HSØM on during the CQ WW Contest in November.

We noted in Issue 182 that during the ARRL Phone DX Competition in early March, 10 Meters finally opened to Japan, the last two hours of the contest. Signals were S9, and it turned out that this was to be the last hurrah for that band/path. The real surprize came during the fall 1983 contest season, when openings to Japan were even few and weak on 15 Meters.

We visited a travel agent in late March, to see about visiting the Andaman Islands. No problem, they said, it's open to tourists. But no radio operation would be possible without a one-year residency in India.

Issue 183 contained a letter from VK6XI, full of charges concerning the HIDXA operation from Heard Island. We published it knowing that Jim Smith of the HIDXA would be in the U.S. in April, and would have an opportunity to refute the charges. Many of you heard his remarks at Visalia and Dayton. The fallout from the two Heard operations was to continue through most of 1983.

Lloyd and Iris Colvin finished up their operations from the Middle East, having signed W6KG/A4, W6KG/A7, HZ1AB, 9K2QL, and JY8KG. A71AD was instrumental in helping them get licenses in several of the Arab countries. They tried without success to get N. Yemen 4W permission.

K4YT, Karl Renz, was also in the Middle East, and made a number of goodwill visits, including to YI1BGD. He reported talk of increased amateur radio activity from Iraq when or if their war with Iran ever cools off.

The FCC's March 31 announcement of expansion of the 20 Meter 'phone band for U.S. amateurs was met with a few cries of "Foul!" from other parts of the world. When the U.S. hams moved down to 14.150 in April, the transition went smoothly. Our worst fear, that some DX SSB stations would move below 14.100, never came to pass.

A young Chinese tennis player was granted political asylum in the U.S. in early March, leading the Chinese to cancel all "cultural exchange" programs with the U.S. for the rest of the year. This was the last we heard of it, though, and American visitors continued to flow into China. Both BY1PK and BY8AA were off the air most of March and April, with no explanation given.

Visalia's International DX Convention in April hosted OH2BH, JA1BK, k8CW/VKØCW, VK9NS, the Colvins, VS6CT, and SMØAGD. K3ZO/HK3NBB showed up, too, with the first definitive word on preparations for an October Malpelo operation. Your editor spent the weekend in Dallas and had lunch with the competition!

K4YT went to the Far East in April, operating from 9N1MM and YBØACP. He was denied a Sri Lanka license. Karl visited the Bangkok radio club's meeting and was told that Thai amateurs hoped to be back on the air again soon...but not in '83, they weren't. Karl made stops in Singapore and Hong Kong, followed by China, where he stopped at BY1PK.

DX At What Price?

SPRATLY

TDXB Issues 186 and 187 were the two most difficult yet rewarding we have done to date. We spent literally hours on the telephone to Germany, the Philippines, and the U.S. Department of State, piecing together the story of how the expedition team had disappeared in the South China Sea.

In our April 18 issue we were able to report only the missing boat and crew; the following week, we had the sad duty to report that DJ3NG and DJ4EI both were killed in an attack by Vietnamese occupying Amboyna Cay. Their vessel, the Siddhartha, was sunk on April 10. The four remaining people, DJ6SI, DF6FK, captain Peter Marx, and his wife Jenny, drifted in a dinghy for ten days before being rescued by a Japanese freighter.

The story eventually went international, with worldwide press coverage of the outrage, but the amateur radio media had beaten them to it. While some in the amateur radio community called for changes in DXCC to prevent similar occurances in the future, most felt the blame for the tragedy had to be placed elsewhere.

At the end of April, the Dayton Hamvention featured another square-off between Jim Smith and IDXF representatives, but nothing definitive came out of their presentations. Our May 2 issue had a letter from Kirsty Smith, VK9NL, answering the charges of VK6XI which we had published a month earlier. The Hamvention Ham of the Year was Katashi Nose, KH6IJ.

Martti Laine, OH2BH, reported that two Albanians were in Finland for radio training. In June, the Finns reciprocated with a visit to Tirana, where they left a Kenwood transceiver for use at a proposed university club station. By year's end, no other word was forthcoming, and Albania topped the 1983 TDXB Survey as the most needed country in the world.

DXCC received an additional country with the addition of Norway's Peter I Island, off the Antarctic coast. Occasional rumors of impending operations from the new spot surfaced throughout 1983 but nothing materialized. Peter I won't be added to the official list until an accepted operation takes place.

Subject of much grumbling was the May 6-9 operation from one of the "Spratly" islands by DU1CK, who signed 1S1CK. Only a few contacts were made, and the necessary paperwork for Newington acceptance was not provided, so the operation counted only for Philippines DXCC credit.

An outstanding operating accomplishment was the first 160 Meter DXCC from the U.S. West Coast, honors going to Roger Mace, W6RW.

The end of May brought first word of an ending of the amateur radio drought in Cambodia, as JA1UT and JA1HQG met with several leaders there. A "Tokyo Village" had been set up near the Thai border to help cope with the ever-increasing number of Cambodians fleeing the central government. We predicted that operations would begin in August, probably signing XU1SS, and we were right.

By May, some 500 Polish amateurs were back on the air, and an American in Jakarta reported that some 2,000 locals showed up to take their exams for Indonesian licenses. These were almost all vhf-only, no-code tickets. American Advanced and Extra Class licensees took over their new 5o KHz on the 20 Meter SSB band May 22.

In early June, we noted that since TDXB began putlishing in August, 1979, all but thirteen DXCC countries had been on the air. As of December, 1983, after 220 issues, we have removed Cambodia, Laccadives and Malpelo from that list of thirteen.

A Mount Athos operation in May was cancelled, but 1AØKM came on as planned the next month. S2BTF was active in the spring and summer but DXCC documentation in doubt. A6XJC, ditto. YU2DX made 1200 QSOs from BY1PK in May, nearly all in Europe and Japan. J28AZ began talking about a South Yemen operation about this time, but nothing ever materialized. We continued to predict that ZL3AFH would open from Kermadec in September, but word was he was interested only in chatting on 75 Meter SSB, mostly back home to New Zealand. Unfortunately, that prediction was right on target!

After not accepting any advertising, TDXB broke with tradition and ran, in issue 198, a large ad for "Honor Roll Insurance," from a company out of "Yuronthelist, Arkansas." Many scoffed at this, thinking it just another product of the editor's demented brain. Scoff no more, Bunky! Your editor took out a policy and, sure enough, we made the Honor Roll in 1983!

Earlier in 1983, we listed "Nine Ways Declining Sunspots Build Stronger DXers," and we followed that in July with a "Nostalgia Corner." Taking a look at our Indiana logbooks from eleven years before, we tried to impart a feeling of what the upcoming DX season might be like on the bands. We summed it up by saying "15 will be fine this autumn, and 10 will have its moments." How did we do?

K1MM worked 20 Meter CW from BY1PK on July 7, after paving the way on previous visits. He was the first American to operate from the "new China." Unfortunately, the visitor's hours are some of the very worst for propagation to North America.

By July, VK9NS was becoming very optimistic about a Kermadec expedition early in 1984. ZL1AMO had also checked in with word that he had approached the authorities concerning Kermadec permission. And definite word came about this time that Clipperton would be activated by a joint Tahiti/American team in March '84.

Issue 200 carried some interesting statistics from the VKØHI/VKØCW operation: the overall percentage of duplicate contacts was 21.5. The dupe rate on 20 CW was about the same, 25%, from the U.S., Europe, and Japan. An unnamed VK3 worked VKØHI seven times.

We tried to perk things up in July by claiming that 80 Meters is usable for DX even in the summer, and further stating that 80 and 160 don't follow the Sunspot Cycle. True or not, the 1983 season has been the best in just about everyone's memory on 40 and 80, with 160 good, too. An August issue carried an article on 80 Meter DXing by acknowledged expert O.M.Y. Akineers (an associate editor).

Nine Japanese put XU1SS on the air Aug 11-30, operating when their limited border passes would allow (0100-1000Z). We reported that as of Aug 16, 5000 contacts had been made. Operations continued throughout the year, by the Cambodians themselves, on 20 Meters both SSB and CW. DXCC acceptance came in the autumn, but thus far the Newington DXCC Desk has seen (as of Dec 21) only one XU1SS QSL.

A very unusual happening in mid-September was a guest operation in Taiwan, by I2MQP, I2BVS, and I2NYN. Tim Chen, BV2A/B paved the way for permission from the Chinese Radio Association. The "Italian DX Blue Team" made 5300 contacts under poor propagation. There were no openings to the U.S. on either 10 or 15, and very brief openings on 20.

Our Annual Countries Needed Survey Issue hit the streets on Sept 6, with few surprises. We had over 600 responses from subscribers on all continents. We have extra copies of that issue...new subscribers who didn't get Issue 205 can have a copy for a large SAE with 37 cents postage.

Plenty of what seemed to be good news came out in September. Amateurs from Yokohama were going to China to open a new station, BY4AA, at Shanghai. Although BY4AA did begin on Oct 10, few have worked it by year's end. Some of the locals in Shanghai have been sent to Beijing for training.

Visitors to China were being denied access to BY1PK because it was "being repainted," but operator Tong was glad to speak to them by phone. An American at the Cambodian Tokyo Village, on a fact-finding mission for the U.S. Congress, spoke to one of the officials there, who said they'd be happy to let visiting American amateurs operate.

OH2BH reported on his continuing Albania efforts: several Finns were in Tirana on schedule and left the TS-130S there. AD1S announced an operation from Jarvis Island (counts as Palmyra) for November, and VK9NS had more news on his Kermadec plans.

We suggested in September that ARRL make an Honor Roll member plaque available, cost to be borne by the recipient. There has been widespread support for this...tell your ARRL director. We also allowed as how it would be nice to see Rod Newkirk, W9BRD, as a member of CQ's DX Hall of Fame. No word has come down on this, but it would be nice to be surprised!

Orwell's Year

AMATEUR RADIO IN 1984

Are you spooked by the mere thought of 1984? "The Media" sure is, with some justification. Ten years ago, Nixon and Agnew tried to muzzle the press, and the current administration has been none too friendly, either. "1984" is merely a tag for an idea; Orwell wrote his masterpiece in 1948 and simply turned the numbers around.

The 1984 syndrome is essentially how much power the people can accede to their government and how much they can't. We radio amateurs are in a bind...we want just enough radio regulations to keep order on the bands and keep riff-raf out. We do not want local zoning boards tearing down our towers or imposing quiet hours. We do want government prosecuting deliberate interferers, but we don't want them making midnight raids to see who's running illegal power. Or do we? What you do in the privacy of your own radio room (to paraphrase a famous example) is nobody's business so long as nobody gets hurt. Running 30 kilowatts does hurt people.

Mr. Reagan's administration worships at the altar of deregulation, almost nowhere more devoutly as in the FCC. The Volunteer Examiner Program is a good example; its success will be determined in 1984. There are already some hints as to what might happen...the airline industry has been deregulated, with some bad results (more airplanes breaking for lack of maintenance, less air traffic control).

Actually, one of the joys of amateur radio has been, at least in the U.S., the freedom we have to do what we want. Like maybe build our own transmitter (remember) and actually put it on the air! Problem is, our traditional system of self-policing has broken down. Used to be, if you made trouble on the air the locals would bring it to your attention. We are not advocating vigilante raids or coax-chopping, but whatever happened to calling a lid a lid? If a ham in your town harrasses you in an illegal manner, do you know how hard it is to get the FCC to take care of him? Virtually impossible, that's how hard.

And where does the just-defeated "no code" license proposal fit in? It would have been a logical next step following the FCC's emasculation of both the written and Morse portions of their exams. It appears no-code was just more than most active hams could stomach, the ARRL understood (and agreed), and FCC backed down. This would have been worse than deregulation...it would have been tantamount to no regulation.

We predict that the only major FCC action likely in 1984 affecting amateur radio will be to open the 18 and 24 MHz bands. 1984 being a big election year, they'll be busy with things like "equal time" on broadcast stations (a hot potato).

Sometimes You Can't Please Anybody

THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS

Word began filtering down from Alaska of a group going to operate from the Pribilof Islands later in the summer. We mentioned that these Islands had previously been turned down for DXCC status, and the following week (in Issue 203) we printed a letter from the Alaska DX Association. They took us to task for taking a position on the matter before we examined their presentation to the League for DXCC status.

At this point, we called Newington and found that the DXCC Desk had not received the Pribilof material from The Alaska DXA. The group explained that circumstances made it necessary for them to conduct their operation at the end of August, before the actual submission could be made to ARRL.

As it turned out, the paperwork did get to Newington prior to the operation, which was Aug 26-30. Therefore, if the Pribilofs are added to the DXCC list, the operation last summer could count, since the submission was made before the operation. It does get sticky, however, since both a deletion and an addition would have to be made to the DXCC list.

The Pribilof "ballots" were sent to members of ARRL's DX Advisory Committee on Dec 20, so a vote will be final soon. After that the ARRL Awards Committee will make a decision in the matter.

TDXB regrets that some Alaskan amateurs feel we have not treated this matter fairly.

Pac-Man Radios

THE MARKETPLACE

1983 meant more of the same in radios, as all Japanese manufacturers introduced new models while Collins, Drake, Heath, and Ten-Tec pretty much stayed with older designs. We radio amateurs are fortunate, as commercially made state-of-the-art radios have been available to us for decades now. Unfortunately, state-of-the-art today means computerized or at least "computer ready," with receiver performance taking a back seat.

Perhaps this was inevitable...after all, Time magazine selected the computer as its 1983 "Man of the Year." Creative writers are not hired unless they are "Wang Experienced." Auto mechanics give up as half the things which break in modern cars are black boxes which must be replaced, not fixed.

There is a limit...Yaesu's highly gadgetized FT-1 failed, possibly due to the combination of high price and the name on the front panel. Their FT-980 isn't busting the sales charts, either. The most popular radios continue to be the simpler offerings from the Japanese, and the "old fashioned" Drake TR-7.

TDXB believes that there is a whole new generation of hams who don't know what a truly good receiver sounds like. The great receivers may also be necessary for only the most serious operators, mostly contest people, who are mostly hanging onto their Collins and Drake "pairs." Today's computer sets, synthesized by definition, suffer from poor receiver performance and often dirty transmitters, but most of us live with them. They can be fun, as most hams have discovered. At the other end of the spectrum was the Collins S-Line pair, "as flexible as a steel rod," as one of our friends used to say. But, when you screwed that 200-Hz filter down and cranked in the rejection tuning on 7001 KHz, nothing would touch it for pulling DX out of the mud. Nothing.

As for amateur radio as a business, most ventures seem to be holding their own. The occasional retail store folds but no major manufacturers have for some time (Cubic being the last). ARRL is still able to attract only a third of the U.S. amateur population, which indicates what it's like trying to sell even something worthwhile to hams! Down at League Headquarters they used to refer to the business as "recessionproof" but that seems to be changing, too.

At the end of September, CYØSPI made 20,000 contacts from St. Paul Island, including many JA stations. We were dreaming of another UØY Zone 23 operation this year, but it turned out to be just that...a dream. Jim Cain voodoo dolls were hot sellers in the Kansas City area.

VE7BC operated from BY1PK Oct 3-5, on SSB. Many were perturbed at the quality of operating, made their thoughts known on 20 Meters, and were monitored by the Chinese. During the operation, some W6 DXers were reporting that BY1PK tipped the scales at S9+20.

ARRL approved XU1SS for DXCC on Oct 6, and we featured a rundown of their reasoning in the matter. Jim Bullington finally got his 9U5JB license in Oct.

HKØTU Malpelo came on exactly on schedule Oct 12. In less than a week they had logged 21,000 contacts. 300 JAs were worked on long path, and many W6/7, although some still went away empty-handed. HK3DDD did a yeoman job of getting QSLs out...he even sent hand-written notes to those he couldn't find in the log! A film/slide presentation for conventions is available from LCRA, Box 584, Bogota.

TDXB 213 had our first report on amateur radio's part in the invasion of Grenada, with a short follow-up in Issue 214. Articles written after the communications blackout and benefitting from hindsite appeared in Dec QST and January CQ magazines.

A Bonanza

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Not long ago, we helped a group of newer hams erect a small beam on a mast. We could have done it in our sleep, having been through the process on more Field Days than we care to count. I'll tell a story on my dad...years ago, a friend and I worked Field Day from a van which my father had borrowed from his company. We did, of course, get publicity in the local newspaper, complete with a photo of us and the van! Well shucks, we didn't damage the truck.

Field Day was, for years, a media event. ARRL has always provided a special package of materials for clubs to hand to their local media. Although FD remains the biggest public relations weekend of the year for amateur radio, 1983 signalled the beginning of a new era in getting our message out.

We had some help. Year's end brought Grenada and the Space Shuttle, in which amateur radio played big roles. We have already reported on that in these pages. Our local newspaper picked up three articles we did on Grenada, and we kept them informed as to W5LFL/Space's progress. And we are just one example. If we had the time, we'd call one of the local DXers who has worked "them all" and do a story on him or her for the papers, too.

Disaster struck in the mid-70s, during the CB radio craze. Seemed nobody knew the difference between them and us. We refer to you and ourselves as "hams" in this paper, but never refer to ourselves to non-hams as anything but "amateur radio operators."

We have not had a TVI complaint in years and years, thankfully. But if we did, and had to justify our operating, we'd mention that we monitored Grenada, we finally now own some hand-held units and other battery operated radios (our electricity goes off fairly often out here), and on and on. If the chips were really down, we could prove ability to provide services which, although we've never had to provide before, would be easy.

And that's why we should be allowed to occasionally run 1500 Watts in the middle of a football game, in order to work China!

AD1S/KH5 Jarvis came on the first of November; Baldur Drobnica, DJ6SI, had to be dropped from the expedition team at the last minute. He was hoping for a short operation from Kingman Reef following Jarvis.

DXAC voted overwhelmingly to keep Spratly on the DXCC list, despite the tragedy earlier in the year. The Colvins left for S. America, and HI3RST/KP4 announced plans for a Desecheo operation in January. We had a rumor of an Andamans operation soon, which evolved into...

The Laccadives, which came on the air Dec 19. There's more on that on page 8 of this issue.

Issue 216's Calendar had 34 entries...K1MM at BY1PK, N6ZV in Africa at the Comoros and Mayotte, 3B9FK and N2EDQ/KH7 ending operations, SMs in Tanzania, DL1VU in the Pacific, K4TKM in Sri Lanka and Nepal, and much more.

ARRL President Vic Clark, W4KFC, passed away on Nov 25, 1983. In our particular sphere of interest, his credentials were impressive: Honor Roll member, contest champion, an operator's operator. There is really little more to say, except the term "Silent Key" was never more appropriate. We'll miss him on the bands.

Our Issue 218 was a prime example of our market strategy. First-page features were on Cambodia, including how to work it and the QSL situation, followed by a report from K1MM on his visits to both BY1PK and BY8AA, and an extensive report on the upcoming Laccadives operation, including photo and QSL from the last operation, special Bandpass for that area of the world, some hints on band openings for various parts of North America, and a comparison between the Top Twenty in TDXB's 1983 Survey and a recent countries-needed survey in Japan.

Last week, we continued coverage of the rarest countries, happily announced that FCC had voted against a no-code license, had more "Special Bandpass for the Laccadives," and even lectured on operating techniques. We are wondering why no one has questioned our qualifications for giving such lectures! We'd like to have some guest lecturers, too.

A22ME 21271 19W 16
A22CA 28530 14C 17
A4XJW 14183 13C 17
A4XJT 14202 13C 19
A71AD 14210 14W 10
A92#B 14213 14W 15
A71AD 14210 15W 17
A92DT 14174 15W 17
A92BT 14192 14C 18
A92DT 14206 13C 19
BY4AA 7007 13E 13
CEØDVH 14214 14W 11
CEØZAD 14220 02W 16
CEØFCM/
CEØZ 7005 03E 18
CT3BM 3799 07E 20
C21NI 7002 11E 16
C21NI 3502 11E 19
C21NI 7008 12C 20
C53CR 28505 15E 18
D44BC 21260 20E 13
EAØJC 7010 00E 17
EA8ZS 7009 00E 14
EA9JE 28595 13E 15
EA9KQ 7002 02E 19
EA9JV 3793 07E 20
EL2AC 14190 20E 16
EL2P 7029 03E 18
FB8WK 14026 03E 15
FB8WK 7011 03E 16
FB8WJ 14223 03W 16
FB8WK 3795 01E 17
FB8WJ 14226 03W 17
FB8WJ 14227 17W 17
FB8WK 7005 02E 18
FB8WJ 3796 01E 18
FO8FW 21039 23E 12
FO8KP 7007 07E 17
FRØFLO 21296 18C 14
HKØBKX 7009 02C 13
HL4XM 3507 14W 15
HL1CG 14025 23C 17
N4US/
HR1 1833 03E 18
HT1JCC 7002 11E 18
HZ1AB 7001 14W 15
HZ1AB 14201 13C 16
JF1IST 3800 11E 18
J28CB 14201 14C 18
J28DP 7005 02E 20
J6LCV 3796 02E 17
KD7P/
AH2 3788 13E 19
KC4USX 14209 04W 16
KX6OH 3798 12E 17
KX6OI 3799 12E 17
OX6WCY 3795 10E 20
OY8R 14227 15W 17
PJ2FR 28615 19C 18
SM6EHY 1831 05E 18
DF3NZ/
ST2 28503 14E 18
SV1NA 7001 04E 15
TF3KG 1838 08E 18
TF5TT 3785 11E 20
TL8ER 21024 13E 16
TR8WCY 7009 02E 17
TR8WCY 21011 13E 18
TU2NW 3794 06E 20
TU2NW 14201 13E 22
TZ6FE 14208 22C 12
T77V 3797 07E 20
UK1PGO 14016 19E 11
UD6CN 7025 20E 18
UK7LAJ 7005 04E 18
UK7LAJ 7007 11E 18
UH8EAD 14031 12E 17
UH8HCB 14215 13C 20
UI8ASW 7002 02E 13
UI8AHW 7002 20E 17
UK8JDB 14195 12E 21
UM8MCO 7005 11E 16
UM8MCO 7009 12E 18
VK9WCY 14220 07W 10
VP8AOD 14202 01W 16
(S ORK)
VP8LP 14191 02W 16
VP8LP 14183 01W 17
VR6KY 3795 03E 18
VR6KY 3806 11E 20
VU2KMK 7011 12E 17
VU2KNS 7006 13E 17
VU2KNS 7003 02E 18
VS6CT 14335 12E 18
VU7WCY 14197 12E 19
VU7WCY 14197 11E 20
V3TV 28588 18C 8
XT2BR 14196 23W 18
XU1SS 14009 12E 15
XU1SS 14011 12C 16
XU1SS 14014 13E 20
XU1SS 14021 13C 21
XU1SS 14014 11E 22
YB5ASO 7003 23E 15
YBØARS 3800 12E 16
YBØARS 14192 12E 20
YJ8TT 14310 04W 13
YK1AO 14213 14W 17
ZD7BW 28520 15E 18
ZD9BV 21265 18E 17
ZD9CC 21335 20E 19
ZS3KC 7005 04E 18
Z22JS 7013 04E 18
3A2LF 14216 16W 17
3A2WCY 3799 06E 20
3B8FG 14197 14W 16
3D2DM 21355 18C 14
3D6AW 28498 14E 18
3X4EX 14195 23C 15
3X4EX 28500 14E 18
4S7WP 7005 12E 13
4S7WP 7002 00E 15
4S7NMR 14203 02W 17
4S7EA 14214 01W 17
4S7WP 14004 12E 18
4S7NE 7009 13E 21
4X4NJ 1831 22E 17
5B4IT 14183 15W 17
5N9GM 21292 19C 14
5N8ARY 7015 02E 18
6W8AR 21292 19C 14
6V9X 14023 23C 20
7X5AB 3799 07E 20
8Q7AV 14207 01W 16
8Q7AV 14203 02W 17
9K2DN 14225 13W 14
9M2HB 14203 13C 17
9M2HB 14155 13E 18
9N1MM 14235 01C 15
9N1MM 14032 12E 20
9N1MM 14022 12E 21
9U5JB 28626 19E 11
9V1VP 7002 12E 17
9V1VP 14025 13E 17
9V1VP 14025 13E 18
9X5WP 14196 16W 17

PHONE:

203-871-7699 (24 hours)

December 22, 1983

VU7WCY began from the Laccadives Monday, Dec 19. They are supposedly signing VU7WCY/XXX, XXX=suffix of the operator's call. Apparently two groups were trying for a simultaneous Andamans and Laccadives operation, Andamans was denied, and the Andamans group is trying to join VU7WCY on the Laccadives. The license is good until Dec 31, and the group will try to operate until then. Although mainland VU stations have had good signals on 20 every day since the 19th, VU7WCY has been heard here in Vernon only twice, both times very weak. Not heard on the 21st or 22nd, and not heard on CW. QSL to VU2APR.

XU1SS Cambodia has been on 20 CW almost every day the past week...working U.S. and Canada very slowly. Signals are quite chirpy. As of Dec 22, no QSL received in Vernon, and W3AZD says he has seen only one XU1SS QSL at the DXCC Desk. VS6CT makes lists for XU1SS on 14.335 Sundays at 1100Z, but XU1SS will reportedly not show on that spot for the next 2-3 weeks.

KT6V/KH9 was on last week, with warning, but the operation lasted only four days...K4YT leaves for Africa at the end of Jan, for two months, itinerary not firm yet...FLASH VU7WCY on 14026 CW 1340Z Dec 22, worked only a few, left. Very weak...NØZO now stationed at Accra, Ghana, but no license...

PROPAGATION: Dec 24, High Normal; Dec 25, High/Low Normal; Dec 26, 27, Low Normal; Dec 28, 29, High Normal; Dec 30, 31, Above Normal; Jan 1, High/Low Normal; Jan 2-4, Low Normal; Jan 5, Above Normal; Jan 6, Low Normal; Jan 7, Below Normal; Jan 8-11, Low Normal. TNX N4XX.

Dec 20 issue of the ARRL LETTER says FCC has released more WARC information...the 18 and 24 MHz bands will become "exclusive amateur allocation no later than July 1, 1989." However, it may be possible to open those bands sooner, under an interim agreement similar to that now in effect on the 10 MHz band (shared with other services). The good news is that all HF bands now exclusively amateur will remain that way.

And another item in that same ARRL LETTER that will gladden the hearts of HF DXers everywhere: BY1PK now has Oscar 10 capability. As soon as the 435 MHz band is allowed at the Beijing station, they'll be on the newest AMSAT machine.

CALENDAR

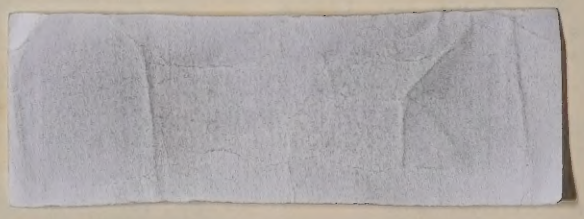
LACCADIVES	VU7WCY on until Dec 31; very weak on 20, no remote vfo capabilities yet, Issues 217, 218, 219, 220
CAMBODIA	XU1SS on 5-6 days a week, 20 CW, in the lower 25 KHz; get there early (1100Z) and catch their first CQ
CROZET	FB8WK on 40 and 80, SSB and CW
CHINA	No reports since early Dec
NAURU	C21NI by DL1VU still on
S ORKNEYS	AZ5ZA Dec 20-Dec 20; I 219
KERMADEC	ZL8AFH on 80 SSB only; need reports
SMOM	1AØKM rumored in January
GALAPAGOS	W6KG/HC8 on NOW
NIGER	KC7UU trying for Jan/Feb
DESECHEO	HI3RST/KP5 Jan 6-8
LEICHTENSTEIN	DL7NS/HBØ Jan 6-28
CONTEST	CQ 160 M Jan 27-29
KERMADEC	HIDXA still trying for Jan/Feb
CLIPPERTON	FOØXA Mar 5-23
CONVENTION	Int'l DX, Visalia CA Apr 13-15

CONTRIBUTORS

KA1BU, N4KG, KR1G, K1BW, W6HXW, W3ICM, TG9VT, PY2ED, N1ACH, W6HXW, W7HRD, KC7WG, W5LLU, K8EM, W4VQ, K4BAI, K2OLG, N4NO, KØCVD, K1XM, SM6AYM, K1SA, K1MEM, W1MEW, N1CWU, KE7X, KM9J, N5FG, K1JA

FLASH!!

Jim Smith, VK9NS announced on December 23rd that NZART has withdrawn their request for a Kermadec operation. VK9NS has received permission for a Kermadec operation for 3 weeks in February. More info to follow.



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